



County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

November 12, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TEAM

On October 14, 2003, the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to provide an assessment of the County's Sacramento Advocacy team with recommendations on any changes that may need to take place reflective of the change in administrations.

The County's current advocacy team is comprised of County employees and contract advocates. Overall, the team has diverse subject matter experience and expertise. The County's four current full time employee advocates have over sixty years of advocacy experience and three have prior employment with the Legislature or advocacy associations. The County's Legislative Advocates are responsible for representing the County's policies and positions with the Legislature and key representatives of the Administration. This includes working with Board offices, legislative policy analysis staff, the Legislative Strategist, and departments on major issues in the development and implementation of advocacy strategies, analyzing Administration proposals, identifying and securing sponsors for all County-sponsored bills, working with other organizations to sponsor other County-interest legislation of Statewide importance, providing testimony before committees, and conducting informal meetings with Legislators and Administration officials as a regular part of their responsibilities.

During a two-year session, the County may screen several thousand bills and track at least 400 of these, many of which do not have a positive impact on the County. Legislation dealing with community redevelopment agencies, Medi-Cal, welfare administration, County discretion, new State mandates, health funding, and realignment constitute only a small part of the subject matter dealt with by the County's advocacy team. These responsibilities also include participation in budget meetings and hearings related to State Budget issues which recently have dominated legislative advocacy work.

The County's interests also are represented on both a general and targeted basis by a distinguished and experienced contract advocacy corps that includes three former Legislators, Robert Cline, Bill Duplissea, and Burt Margolin who at any one time, have handled a range of County priority issues. Other contract advocates employed by the County specialize in revenue and taxation, probation, Juvenile Crime Prevention Act funding and other public safety issues, parks and recreation funding, and County general government issues.

The County's current contract advocates are: Cline and Duplissea, Doug Houston, The Margolin Group, William Siverling, and Nick Warner and Associates.

Over the past year, Cline and Duplissea worked primarily with members of the Senate and Assembly minority caucuses on the vehicle license fee backfill, local authority to impose a sales tax on alcohol to fund trauma care, opposition to AB 1470 (Vargas) which would have subjected IHSS wages to voter initiative, and various legislation seeking to create additional presumptions for workers' compensation. Doug Houston has pursued the County's priorities in obtaining funding through Propositions 40 and 50 for river parkway improvements and acquisitions as well as funding for Lake Castaic. The Margolin Group was involved in major County issues, particularly in the area of health funding including working with the State to obtain additional funding for the County's Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver, securing continuation of the State's Selective Provider Contracting Program, and pursuing trauma funding in coalition with public and private hospitals. William Siverling's responsibilities include revenue and taxation, regional planning and land use, public works including water and flood control, parks and recreation, resources/environmental quality, energy and general government. This year, he worked on a number of issues including the compromise agreement in the SDAF/ERAF lawsuit between the County Fire Department and the State, opposition to AB 1470 (Vargas), the vehicle license fee backfill, redevelopment, and opposition to legislation AB 1051 (Goldberg), which would have undermined the County's lawsuit against the Department of Water and Power. He also led the effort to stop SB 593 (Ackerman), which would have changed the valuation method for commercial aircraft and triggered a substantial loss of property tax revenues and helped protect County interests during State Budget deliberations. Nick Warner and Associates handled a number of issues for the County and the Probation Department including retention of Juvenile Crime Prevention Act funding, restoration of funding for Standards for Corrections Training, and successful passage of AB 355 (Pacheco) which clarifies the definition of "escape from custody".

Historically, the County contract advocacy team has had good working relationships throughout the Wilson and Davis administrations. The advocacy team is balanced in access to key decision-makers and subject matter strength. It has good working

relationships with the leadership, committee chairs, and County delegation members in both houses. Bob Cline, Bill Duplissea, Burt Margolin, and William Siverling have particularly strong contacts in the Assembly and Senate caucuses.

The County's Sacramento advocacy program has consistently stressed the maintenance of close and effective relationships with the administration, and the leadership and members of both parties in both chambers of the Legislature. The entire advocacy team has extensive expertise in budget matters and in specific policy areas ranging from health and workers' compensation to energy and the environment. Based on this balanced representation achieved through the contract advocates and the entire advocacy team's history of effectiveness in securing access to key decision-makers and diverse subject-matter competence, we believe that the County's advocates have a solid foundation to represent the County's interests with the Schwarzenegger Administration.

The County is awaiting completion of the Governor-Elect's appointment of key cabinet officials and those who will occupy key positions in the Governor's office. When these positions have been filled and the Governor-Elect has formulated his budget plans, we can more appropriately assess the County's vulnerabilities and opportunities. At that time, we can determine whether there is a strategic need to enhance the County's existing advocacy efforts.

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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Legislative Strategist